

DHSS GIS Takes an Active Role in Community Mapping Conference



The GIS staff at DHSS took an active role in the **GPS, GIS, and Community Mapping Conference** sponsored by the University of Missouri Extension Service, March 28-30, 2006 in Columbia, Missouri. Community Mapping is a process involving youth, citizens, community professionals, and community decision-makers working together to learn and use geospatial tools and data to address community and environmental issues. The purpose of the conference was to introduce adult youth leaders to the concepts behind community mapping and prepare them to lead youth in the completion of a project.

GIS staff members Debbie Briedwell and Jeff Patridge, as well as DHSS personnel John Gulick, Leslie Murphy, and Patty Van Tuinen, worked with the Missouri Extension Service, Department of Conservation, and Department of Natural Resources in the planning of the conference. The DHSS group developed the **Healthy Communities: Mapping Recreational Resources** project. This project gives youth an opportunity to make citizens aware of available recreation resources in their communities. Youth use technological tools like GIS and GPS to identify local areas for physical activity. They then work closely with community leaders to promote recreation opportunities. This pilot project will serve as a model for future youth mapping efforts undertaken by the Department.



During the conference, GIS staff instructed participants on the primary features of the GIS software ArcMap. On the conference's final day, DHSS staff conducted training on the Healthy Communities Project. Besides Healthy Communities, other projects offered to conference participants included Stream Teams, Emergency Shelters, and Agri-tourism.

View our "Healthy Communities: Mapping Recreational Resources" brochure [here](#).